

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

OLL 84-1762
30 April 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief
Chief, OLL/LD/DI

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FROM:
Senate Liaison

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SUBJECT: Request from Senator Pell for Briefings

On 30 April Peter Sullivan, SSCI Minority Counsel, called to request briefings on behalf of Senator Claiborne Pell. The request was stimulated by the attached newspaper article in the 27 April The New York Times. His specific interests are (a) the extent of direct or indirect CIA or U.S. Government assistance to UNITA and (2) the general relationship between the South African Government and UNITA. Would you please designate as soon as possible those individuals who could best talk on this subject and let me know so that a time could be set for later in this week.

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Attachment

Newspaper article



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Havana Accuses C.I.A of Car-Bombing in Angola

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

Special to The New York Times

HAVANA, April 26 — The Cuban Government has accused the United States of complicity in the deaths of 14 Cubans in a car-bomb explosion last week in Angola.

In a statement published on the front pages of newspapers across the country and broadcast on radio and television yesterday and today, the government also said that the victims were civilian construction workers rather than soldiers, as had been indicated in some news reports.

In the statement, labeled in the government-controlled newspapers as an editorial, the government said the "paws of the Central Intelligence Agency" and the "ominous footprints of its agents are printed all over this brutal terrorist act."

First Official Response

The Cuban Government gave no specifics to support its accusations in the bombing, in which a car loaded with explosives rammed into an 11-story apartment house in the central Angolan city of Huambo on April 19.

First reports of the attack came from the official Yugoslav news agency which said that 20 Cubans and 10 Angolans had been killed. The Soviet press agency Tass reported 100 dead but did not mention nationalities. The South African-backed Angolan rebel group, Unita, which took responsibility for the explosion, said 200 people were killed, including three Soviet citizens and 37 Cuban officers.

Cuba's statement, the Government's first official response to the bombing in Angola, came less than a week after the start of large-scale United States

military maneuvers in the Caribbean waters surrounding Cuba. About 30,000 American military men from the Army, Navy and Air Force are taking part in the maneuvers, which include sending reinforcements to the United States Navy base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and later, carrying out a practice evacuation of 30,000 wives and children of servicemen stationed at Guantánamo.

So far, Cuba has made no official comment on the maneuvers, which are to continue through May 6. But Western diplomats said they believed the Cuban Government was jittery.

"I think they feel a certain kind of insecurity," one diplomat said. "They don't know what the Americans might do. We might say the Americans would never invade Cuba. But they did invade Grenada and they are very involved in Nicaragua."

Last October, when the United States invaded Grenada, relations between Washington and Havana deteriorated to their lowest point since the Central Intelligence Agency-backed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961.

Friction Over Central America

In the course of the invasion, Americans killed 24 Cubans, who the Americans said had picked up rifles and fought the invaders. The Cuban Government said the Cubans were civilian construction workers who were building a 10,000-foot-long runway, capable of handling advanced jet aircraft, and that they had received militia training, which is universal in Cuba.

There has also been considerable friction between the United States and Cuba over El Salvador and Nicaragua, where they are backing opposing

forces.

As recently as last month, Western diplomats here said they saw some indications that Cuba might be preparing to bring home the 25,000 troops that it has in Angola, where they have been supporting the Marxist Government for the last nine years. Cuba also has about 5,000 to 6,000 civilians in Angola.

The presence of Cuban troops in Angola has been a major source of friction in United States-Cuban relations.

Today, Western diplomats suggested that the harsh language of the Cuban statement indicated a hardening of Havana's position and they said an early withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola now seemed unlikely. Cuban officials would not comment.



Brazilians Press Vote Fight Despite Setback in Congress

By ALAN RIDING

Special to The New York Times

BRASILIA, April 26 — Brazil's main opposition groups resumed their campaign for a return to full democracy today, hours after Congress rejected a constitutional amendment calling for direct presidential elections this year.

Opposition members of Congress presented a new proposal to restore direct presidential elections, arguing that the focus of their campaign had

the direct election movement — burst into tears.

This morning, the daily Folha de São Paulo, which in recent weeks had run a strip of yellow urging people "to wear yellow for the direct elections," ran a black line across its front page with the advice, "Wear black for the National Congress."